



California State Fire Training

PO Box 944246, Sacramento, CA 94244-2460
Bus (916) 445-8444

1131 S Street, Sacramento, CA 95811
Fax (916) 445-8128



American River Community College Accredited Regional Training Program Site Visit Report

February 10, 2012

Accreditation Team

Charley Hurley, STEAC Representative
Leona Allen, Fire Technology Directors Association Representative
Rodney Slaughter, Deputy State Fire Marshal
Brandon Erickson, Academy Coordinator Assistant

Executive Summary

The accreditation team recommends that American River College becomes reaccredited as an Accredited Regional Training Program (ARTP) under the State Fire Training system. American River College provides classes and training for professional development within the Greater Sacramento Area in collaboration with the Joint Powers Authority.

Program Review

Accreditation team members were provided a copy of American River College (ARC) self-assessment report prior to the January 19th site visit for review. The accreditation site team visited the Academy in progress at 7641 Greenback Lane, Citrus Heights, CA. State Fire Training Staff then visited the ARC Public Safety Center at 5146 Arnold Ave, McClellan, CA and the California Fire Rescue Authority (CFRA) at 3012 Gold Canal Drive Rancho Cordova, CA. In the course of these visits the Site team met with:

Al Iannone, Fire Technology Coordinator American River College
Maury Johnson Training Academy Coordinator
Jim Thomason, Dean of Outreach Training
Sherri Martucci, California Fire & Rescue Training Authority Coordinator



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The site team was taken on a tour of the training center facilities, owned and operated by Sacramento Metropolitan Fire Department. The team observed an academy class performing a variety of hose drills and instruction. The site team was given an opportunity to address the academy cadets and ask and answer training-related questions. The training center has an adequate number of materials, tools and equipment to support the staff and students.

State Fire Training staff then visited the Public Safety Center of the campus at McClellan Park and toured the facilities there. Classrooms and library resources were also adequate. The Dean of Outreach Training is very supportive of the fire academy and fire technology programs. There is a Joint Powers Authority between Sacramento Metropolitan Fire District, Sacramento Fire Department, CAL EMA, and the California Fire & Rescue Training Authority. American River College has an instructional services agreement with the JPA. This agreement provides many opportunities for ARC in terms of training delivery options.

Best Practices

There were several areas that this academy excelled. The Fire Academy use of technology to store student data and records on the cloud was seen an appropriate use of technology. Students and staff can store and retrieve secured data seamlessly from the "cloud." The training partnership that ARC has with CFRA is unusual but allows the college to maintain a level of course offerings that they could not sustain through the college itself.

The CFRA is a quasi-government agency that has the ability to embrace current technology like social media to promote course offerings, the use of survey monkey for student feedback at the end of a class, and the students can do their own background checks for a nominal fee.

The accreditation team found that the training facilities, classrooms, apparatus, tools and equipment adequately meet the needs for the faculty and students. The site accreditation team recommends that American River College become re-accredited.